



HEALTH HOLDING

HAFER ALBATIN HEALTH  
CLUSTER  
MATERNITY AND  
CHILDREN HOSPITAL

<b>Department:</b>	Laboratory and Blood Bank		
<b>Document:</b>	Multidisciplinary Policy and Procedure		
<b>Title:</b>	The Emergency Release of Incompletely Tested Blood and Blood Components		
<b>Applies To:</b>	All Blood Bank Staff and Treating Physicians		
<b>Preparation Date:</b>	January 06, 2025	<b>Index No:</b>	LB-MPP-238
<b>Approval Date:</b>	January 20, 2025	<b>Version :</b>	2
<b>Effective Date:</b>	February 20, 2025	<b>Replacement No.:</b>	LB-MPP-238 (1)
<b>Review Date:</b>	February 20, 2028	<b>No. of Pages:</b>	04

## 1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To set the procedure and responsibilities for releasing of incompletely tested blood and/or blood components.

## 2. DEFINITIONS:

### 2.1 Deviation and exceptions standards of the blood bank:

- 2.1.1 They are infusion of blood product(s) away from any rule of applicable blood bank standards to be applied, activated and acceptable. It is limited to life saving situations and urgent need only.

### 2.2 Major deviations and exceptions of the blood bank:

- 2.2.1 Issue of non-screened or incomplete screened blood products.
- 2.2.2 Issue of un-cross matched blood product for life saving situation.
- 2.2.3 Least incompatible blood products.
- 2.2.4 Rh-positive PRBCs for Rh-negative patient with non-availability of the Rh negative PRBCs.

### 2.3 Minor deviations and exceptions:

- 2.3.1 Alternate blood group products issue if the same blood group of the patient is not available in the blood bank inventory .
- 2.3.2 Issue of Rh-negative blood products for the patient with Rh-negative and Du test positive of any grade.

## 3. POLICY:

- 3.1 Clinical situations may arise in which transfusion of blood components must be initiated before incompletely testing blood / blood components. This policy describes the pre-transfusion process; selection and issuing of blood components when circumstances do not allow for testing to be complete prior to the issue of blood /blood components .
- 3.2 This includes release of units with incomplete screening tests as well as un-crossmatched or incompletely cross-matched units.
- 3.3 The process is for emergency need only.
- 3.4 Upon the discretion of the blood bank physician or lab medical director, the agreement of the attending physician and the consent of the patient or next of kin, when applicable.
  - 3.4.1 In dire emergencies, patient/family signs consent for "transfusion without NAT testing".
- 3.5 Approved only for a particular patient and one transfusion event.
- 3.6 The process considers age and sex factors .
- 3.7 The process ensures ABO/Rh-D and labelling of the selected blood . The released blood products are conspicuously labelled to this effect with label denoting that NAT not done.
- 3.8 Testing of the blood/blood components must be completed and reported promptly to the attending physician.
  - 3.8.1 The process ensures subsequent compatibility testing and notification of the results.
- 3.9 The process ensures documentation of the release event (including ordering physician signature).
- 3.10 Deviations and exceptions standard in this chapter applies.

## 4. PROCEDURE:

- 4.1 **Scope:** All blood and blood components incompletely tested pre-transfusion .

## 4.2 Required action for the deviation:

- 4.2.1 If the deviations are incomplete products screening test:
  - 4.2.1.1 For urgent need only .
  - 4.2.1.2 Upon the discretion of the blood bank physician or lab medical director, the agreement of the attending physician and the consent of the patient or next of kin when applicable .
    - 4.2.1.2.1 In dire emergencies, patient/family signs consent for "transfusion without NAT testing".
  - 4.2.1.3 Approved only for a particular patient and one transfusion event .
  - 4.2.1.4 The released blood products are conspicuously labelled to this effect .
  - 4.2.1.5 Testing of the blood/blood components must be completed and reported promptly to the attending physician.
- 4.2.2 If the deviation is infusion of least incompatible product(s):
  - 4.2.2.1 Close observation of the patient during the whole course of infusion.
  - 4.2.2.2 Immediately stop infusion with any suspected transfusion reaction.
  - 4.2.2.3 Repeated laboratory investigations to follow up the patient general conditions.
- 4.2.3 If the deviation is issue of un-crossmatched blood or incompletely cross-matched blood:
  - 4.2.3.1 For urgent need only .
  - 4.2.3.2 Approved only for a particular patient and one transfusion event .
  - 4.2.3.3 A correctly labelled blood sample must be obtained from the patient .
  - 4.2.3.4 If a correctly labelled sample is not immediately available and blood is required because of a life-threatening situation, group O blood must be issued .
  - 4.2.3.5 If the patient is a premenopausal female, group O RhD-negative blood and AB plasma must be given:
    - 4.2.3.6 The sample should be ABO and RhD grouped .
    - 4.2.3.7 Blood of appropriate ABO and RhD group may be issued after performing immediate spins crossmatch.
    - 4.2.3.8 The unit label has to indicate in a conspicuous fashion that compatibility testing was not completed at time of issue.
    - 4.2.3.9 A retrospective IAT crossmatch should be performed as soon as possible. If result is incompatible, inform treating physician to stop transfusion immediately.
    - 4.2.3.10 Proper documentation of the release event has to be followed (including the ordering physician signature) and retained indefinitely.
- 4.2.4 If the deviation is issuing Rh positive blood to Rh negative patient:
  - 4.2.4.1 "Stamped Card" must be issued to the patient like ID to protect him from repeating infusion of Rh-positive blood.
  - 4.2.4.2 Ask him to show with any next infusions and any medical interference .
  - 4.2.4.3 Repeated lab investigations to follow up the patient general condition.
- 4.2.5 If the deviation is using compatible alternate with non-availability of patient own blood group products:
  - 4.2.5.1 There is approved schedule of alternate compatible blood products with different levels of choices which must be respected .
- 4.2.6 If the deviation is infusion of Rh negative patient with Du test positive product of any group:
  - 4.2.6.1 It is a very rare condition of suspected transfusion reaction so, avoid such infusion for female in child bearing period .

## 5. MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT:

- 5.1 Consent for blood transfusion without NAT" testing. Consent for Emergency Blood Transfusion
- 5.2 Emergency request of blood without NAT ,cross match or incomplete cross match & release form
- 5.3 Label of no NAT result without cross match , without cross match ,incomplete cross match

## **6. RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- 6.1 Blood bank consultant/ specialist must be immediately notified and give approval of such issue through immediately notified blood bank staff in charge .
- 6.2 The treating physician must approve such transfusion by signing and stamping on the blood.

## **7. APPENDICES:**

- 7.1 N/A

## **8. REFERENCES:**

- 8.1 The Unified Practical Procedure Manual For Blood Banks In The Arab Countries, 1434-2013.
- 8.2 The Standard Policy For Blood Banks In The Kingdom Of Saudi Arabia, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, 1435-2014.
- 8.3 National Standards For Clinical laboratories and Blood Banks, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, 2015.
- 8.4 AABB Technical manual, 18th edition, 2014.
- 8.5 AABB Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services, 30<sup>th</sup> edition, 2016.
- 8.6 Mollison's Blood Transfusion in Clinical Medicine; 12th edition, 2014.

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